

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/963,564

Examiner

Ling-Siu Choi

Applicant(s)

CHEN, HUI-WAN

Art Unit

1713

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed 01/05/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,4 and 6-11.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 27 September 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to the Amendment filed January 5, 2005. Claims 2-3 and 5 were canceled and claims 1, 4, and 6-11 are now pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 4, and 6-11 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
- The present claims are allowable over the closest references: Lau et al. (WO 98/52031).

Electrophoresis Separator comprising an electrophoresis tank and a receiving tank as its main body, the electrophoresis separator is characterized by	
1	the receiving tank is used for placing carriers therein and provided with a slot on each side thereof to communicate with said electrophoresis tank;
2	one side of each of said carriers is provided with a notch in corresponding to one of the slots, in order that after sample solution is dropped on said carriers, said carriers are directly inserted in said receiving tank
3	a bottom blocking piece is provided at the bottom of the receiving tank directly covers the bottoms of said carriers and crevices between the notches and the receiving tank, and blocking sheets are inserted into the slots and notches, the blocking sheets are removed from the slots and notches after gel filled in the carriers is fixed and shaped, thus the gel contacts with the electric conducting liquid in the electrophoresis tank through said slots and notches

4	the other ends of the bodies of the gel in the carriers contacts the electric conducting liquid in the receiving tank through upper openings of the carriers directly
5	electric current floating is resulted to cause an effect of molecule separation and analysis for samples in the gel
wherein the carrier are formed each by sure positioning of a first clamping sheet and a second clamping sheet to form a structure to receive the sample solution; positioning pins and positioning holes are provided on the two clamping sheets separately; and protruding sockets all of a specific height are provided on one of the clamping sheets at the surface to be contacted with the other of the clamping sheets, wherein when the two clamping sheets are abutted upon each other, the protruding sockets form a crevice between the two clamping sheets to enable an operator to position the two clamping sheets of the carrier promptly and get a thickness of the gel accurately after shaping	
wherein clamping members are provided on one of first and second clamping sheets of each of carriers, so that when the two clamping sheets are abutted upon and positioned relative to each other, the clamping members are directly used to fixedly clamp the two clamping sheets and assure firmness of the structure	

(summary of claim 1)

Lau et al. disclose a gel casting and electrophoresis device comprising an integrated frame assembly adapted to hold a gel cassette having an edge and including a bottom sealing mean which is movable from a first position for sealing the edge of the gel cassette for gel casting to a second position for the edge of the gel cassette to contact a buffer medium for electrophoresis (claim 1). However, Lau et al. do not teach or fairly suggest an electrophoresis separator comprising positioning pins and positioning holes on the first and second clamping sheets separately, protruding sockets, and clamping members

In light of the above discussion, it is evident as to why the present claims are patentable

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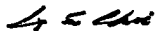
over the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ling-Siu Choi whose telephone number is 571-272-1098.

If attempt to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wu, can be reach on 571-272-1114.



LING-SUI CHOI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

April 4, 2005